I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

September 5, 2002 — Date

Denise Sheridan for — Ayesha S. Wilks

20/E
9/20/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Vishnu K. Agarwal	Attorney Docket No.	: 501082.04 (98-0616.03)
Serial No.	: 09/652,993	Group Art Unit	: 2815
Filed	: August 31, 2000	Examiner	: Jose R. Diaz
Title	: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE		

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Still other gases include diborane (B_2H_6); phosphine (PH_3); and carbon-silicon compounds such as methylsilane (CH_3SiH_3) and hexamethyldisilane $(CH_3)_3Si\text{-}Si(CH_3)_3$; and hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS). Additional alternate embodiments of the current invention use hydrazine (N_2H_4), monomethylhydrazine, carbon tetrafluoride (CF_4), CHF_3, HCl, and boron trichloride (BCl_3), which are also useful in passivating dielectrics, as addressed in copending application 09/114,847, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,201,276 B1. Also included are mixtures of any of the gases or types of gases described above. Exemplary non-plasma process parameters using these other gases include a flow rate of about 2 sccm to about 400 sccm for